

REMARKS

Status of the Application

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully requested. Applicant is hereby amending claim 1 and adding claims 9-16. Thus, claims 1-16 are now pending in the application. Applicant respectfully submits that the pending claims define patentable subject matter.

§102 Rejection

Claims 1-8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by JP 2001-336872.

Amended claim 1 recites “wherein the door has a plane, and the first coupling portion is locked to the second coupling portion by sliding the first coupling portion in a direction parallel to the plane.” Specifically, we would argue that Oishi fails to teach or suggest a sliding guide as recited in claim 1. The element noted by the Examiner in the Examiner’s Figures as a sliding guide is simply a cutout formed in the door *handle*. When combined with the second coupling portion, a circular hole is formed for insertion of a screw. Therefore, the element is not a sliding guide, but a location for fixing the door handle and the second coupling portion to the door. Further, amended claim 1 requires that a door handle has a bracket accommodation portion which must be structured such that a supporting bracket may be accommodated therein, *and* that the first coupling portion must be structured such that the door handle may slide in a direction parallel to the plane in order to lock the first coupling portion to the second coupling portion. Oishi fails to teach or suggest that the door handle is structured to have a bracket-accommodation portion *and* a sliding guide. FIG. 4(c) of Oishi shows that once a supporting

bracket accommodates a supporting bracket, the first coupling portion cannot slide, as the arms of the second coupling portion locks to the first coupling portion and prevents movement in any direction by the door handle, much less in a direction parallel to a plane of the door. Therefore, claim 1 is patentable over the applied art. Claims 2-8 are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency from claim 1.

New Claims

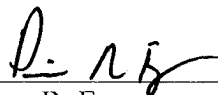
Applicant is hereby adding new claims 9-16. Claims 9-16 recite similar limitations to claims 1-8, and are patentable for reasons analogous thereto.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



Dion R. Ferguson
Registration No. 59,561

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

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